

**What is claimed is:**

1. A structural component (10) for mounting in the lower region (42) of a motor vehicle bumper arrangement (60), which has a longitudinal dimension and is constructed in cross-section such that its spring characteristic in relation to bending stress in a direction (x) substantially at right angles to its longitudinal dimension (y) substantially corresponds to a spring characteristic of a part (38) of the bumper arrangement which adjoins the structural component (10) and is located above it.
2. The structural component (10) according to claim 1, wherein at least one reinforcing element (11) is formed in a direction (x) substantially at right angles to its longitudinal dimension (y).
3. The structural component (10) according to claim 2, which has at least one air inlet (12) facing the direction of travel (x) of the motor vehicle, said inlet forming a passage in the direction of an engine compartment M.
4. The structural component (1) according to claim 3, which has an overhang ( $\Delta$ ) of substantially zero in relation to a region of the bumper arrangement adjacent to its upper edge (13).
5. The structural component (10) according to claim 4, which is formed in one piece with an air inlet grille (14) or the like adjacent to its upper edge (13).
6. The structural component (10) according to claim 5, wherein a lower edge (15a) extends in the direction of the engine compartment M in order to at least partly shield, from below, a cooling module carrier or the like which is arranged above it.

7. The structural component (10) according to claim 6, wherein the lower edge (15a) is attached to a body part (29) at at least one point.

8. The structural component (10) according to claim 7, wherein a frame portion (17) is mounted at each of the lateral ends (19), providing lateral reinforcement.

9. The structural component (10) according to claim 8, wherein the frame portion (17) has at least one box-like structure (21) which extends substantially at right angles to the longitudinal direction (x) of the structural component (10).

10. The structural component (10) according to claim 9, wherein the frame portion (17) is secured to a body part (29) at at least one point, said fixing point being located in particular in a lateral outer region of the vehicle body.

11. The structural component (10) according to claim 10, wherein the frame portion (17) comprises, adjacent to a body part (29), a substantially vertically extending support surface (22) which abuts on a contact surface (23) of the body part (29) when the structural component (10) is assembled.

12. The structural component (10) according to claim 11, wherein the respective frame portions (17) are separate components and are attached by interlocking engagement to the lateral ends (19) of the structural components.

13. The structural component (10) according to claim 11, which is formed in one piece with the frame portions (17).

14. The structural component (10) according to claim 13, which is made from a hard plastics material.

15. The structural component (10) according to claim 14 which is made from a polypropylene plastic.
16. The structural component according to claim 11 on which an outer covering (24) is applied.
17. The structural component (10) according to claim 16, wherein the outer covering (24) is attached by interlocking engagement by one of an expanded rivet joint (30), a clip connection (34), push-in metal clip nuts or the like.
18. The structural component (10) according to claim 17, wherein at least one of the structural component (10), the frame portion (17), and the covering (24) have a support lug (32, 33, 36) and engage with one another by means of the support lugs.
19. The structural component (10) according to claim 18, wherein the respective support lugs (32, 33, 36) are formed essentially in the longitudinal direction (x) of the structural component (10).
20. The structural component (10) according to claim 19, which is in the form of an air baffle in the bumper arrangement.
21. The structural component (10) according to claim 20, which acts as a multifunctional component in the bumper arrangement.
22. The structural component according to claim 21 in which fog lamps, extra head lamps, at least one temperature sensor or the like are accommodated.